

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 236013

21 S 10

ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 CCO-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /168 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO - JDSTODDART:ML

APPROVED BY PM/ISO - J.D.STODDART

AF - MR. WALKER

OSD/ISA - CDR SICK

PM - MR. STERN

EUR/NE - MR. FLOYD

EA/RA - MR. CHAPMAN

NEA - MR. SCHIFF

----- 002469

P 010212Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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PAGE 02 STATE 236013

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
USINT CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
CINCPAC  
CINCLANT  
USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR  
SUBJECT: MOVE OF HANCOCK TASK GROUP TO GULF OF ADEN

REFERENCE: STATE 232662

1. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY ABOUT U.S. NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. QUOTE AS YOU ALSO KNOW, THE USS HANCOCK HAS BEEN IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IN RECENT WEEKS. IT IS NOW MAKING THE INITIAL PREPARATIONS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN. TWO OF THE DESTROYERS ACCOMPANYING THE HANCOCK HAVE BEEN ON A PORT VISIT TO MASSAWA, ETHIOPIA. WHEN THEY REJOIN THE TASK FORCE, IT WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN. IT WILL, HOWEVER, BE REPLACED BY A TASK FORCE CENTERING ON THE ORISKANY. AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HOSTILITIES IN VIETNAM THERE WERE REGULAR VISITS BY U.S. NAVAL FORCES TO THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE INTEND TO REESTABLISH THE PATTERN OF REGULAR VISITS INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND WE EXPECT THAT OUR PRESENCE THERE WILL BE MORE FREQUENT AND MORE REGULAR THAN IN THE PAST.

2. FOLLOWING EMERGED FROM SUBSEQUENT Q. AND A. SESSION:

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PAGE 03 STATE 236013

Q. COULD YOU GIVE US A MORE SPECIFIC EXPLANATION OF WHY WE HAVE SHIFTED OUR STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO THE INDIAN OCEAN? I UNDERSTAND YOUR REMARKS ABOUT PRIOR TO VIETNAM AND THE FREQUENCY OF OUR VISITS THERE, BUT NEVERTHELESS, IT HAS BEEN OUR POLICY AND IT HAS BEEN ARTICULATED MOST RECENTLY THAT WE ONLY GO THERE FROM TIME TO TIME. COULD YOU TELL US SPECIFICALLY WHAT THE DECISION

HAS BEEN MADE TO GO THERE MORE FREQUENTLY THAN FROM TIME  
TO TIME?

A. AS I SAID, BEFORE THE VIETNAMESE WAR, THERE ARE  
REGULAR MOVEMENTS INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN. THESE REGULAR  
MOVEMENTS WILL CONTINUE WITH MORE FREQUENCY. I THINK WE  
ARE ALL AWARE OF THE ENHANCED INTEREST THAT APPLIES TO  
THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A RESULT OF THE EVENTS OF THE LAST  
FOUR WEEKS.

3. ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING TO AMPLIFY PARA 4  
REFTEL. RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** mcintyresh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE236013  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JDSTODDART:ML  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** STATE  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731251/aaaablft.tel  
**Line Count:** 127  
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**Office:** ORIGIN PM  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 232662  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** mcintyresh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUL 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16-Jul-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <27-Aug-2001 by mcintyresh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MOVE OF HANCOCK TASK GROUP TO GULF OF ADEN  
**TAGS:** MARR, XO  
**To:** LONDON TEHRAN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005